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THE
CONSTITUTION
OF
THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY
FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT
OF
CHARITY-SCHOOLS.





THE

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY
" "

FOR THE

ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT

OF

CHARITY SCHOOLS.

INCORPORATED THE EIGHTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1801.



PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

1840.

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ACT OF INCORPORATION.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO ALL PEOPLE, TO
WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING :

“ KNOW YE, That in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, passed the sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, entitled, ‘ An act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporations or bodies politic in law,’ Joseph Bennett Eves, Joseph Briggs, Benjamin Williams, William Nekervis, John Stockton, Hartt Grandom, Thomas Potts, Jr., Philip Garrett, Thomas Bradford, Jr., Matthew Cunningham, Charles L. Baker, Samuel Wistar, Edmund Darch, William Foster, William Brown, Jr., Thomas L. Bristoll, William Fry, Rowland Jones, William Paxson, Robert Coe, Jr., Caleb Emlen, Caleb Cresson, Jr., Thomas M. Hall, Michael Newbold, Adam Konigmacher, John Walker, Charles Allen, Savage Stillwell, William Lee, James Carson, Thomas Smith, Isaiah Jeanes, Frederick Stelwaggon, Jacob Mitchell, Greenberry D. Hanson, John Craig, John Simis, Morris Longstreth, Joseph D. Brown, Joseph Head, Robert Evans, Jr., Fielding Lucas, Jr., John Watkins, James A. Hood, Timothy Abbott, Jr., William Allibone, Jr., Michael Fagan, Daniel Newman, Ephraim Pittman, Samuel F. Jones, Joseph Hufty, George

Pryor, Jonathan Thomas, Jeremiah Warder, Jr., William Pope, Joseph Jones, William Brown (B.), Thomas Austin, Mahlon Haines, Benjamin Paxson, Charles Watson, Thomas Firth, Robert McMinn, John Dull, John Ecky, Jr., Joseph Williams, Josiah Bunting, Jr., William Allen, William Potter, Josiah White, John Hanse, Samuel Darch, Samuel Lippincott, Joseph Clay, George Klaer, Samuel Holmes, John Perkin, James Cresson, Robert Gill, Jr., Benjamin Jones, Joshua Haines, Enoch Allen, William Stokes, Archibald Burns, William Little, and James White, are, agreeable to the said act, and in pursuance thereof, incorporated and made a body corporate and politic in law, by the name and style of **THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF CHARITY SCHOOLS**, upon the articles and conditions contained in the instrument hereunto annexed."

CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, there are many children in the city of Philadelphia, the districts of Southwark, and the Northern Liberties, whose parents or friends are unable to give them a useful education; and may, without the aid of a charitable institution, continue destitute of an acquirement so important to themselves and society:

Therefore, we who subscribe the following constitution do associate, under the title of "The Philadelphia Society, for the Establishment and Support of Charity Schools," for the purpose of establishing and supporting a school or schools, to educate *gratis* in reading, writing, arithmetic, and other useful learning, children of the poor of all denominations, in the city of Philadelphia, the districts of Southwark and the Northern Liberties, without respect to the country or religion of their parents or friends: we, the said subscribers, being citizens of the State of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE I.

The society shall hold four stated meetings in every year, at such times and places as their by-laws shall direct, and fifteen members shall constitute a quorum: and the clear yearly value of their property, and the interest of the money to be lent by them, shall not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds.

ARTICLE II.

The officers shall be a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary ; and there shall also be a board of managers to consist of eighteen, and an electing committee to consist of twelve members. The abovenamed officers, the board of managers, and the electing committee, shall be chosen annually, at such times and in such manner as the society shall direct. The president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, may be elected members of the board of managers, or of the electing committee.

ARTICLE III.

The president, or, in his absence, the vice-president, or, in the absence of both, a president *pro tem.*, shall preside at all meetings, and subscribe all public acts of the society. In all questions (when a ballot is taken excepted) where an equal division of voices happen, he shall have a casting vote ; and shall call a special meeting of the society, when five members concur in requesting it.

ARTICLE IV.

The treasurer, before he enters upon the duties of his office, shall, for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in him, give a bond with sureties to the president for the time being, in the penalty of such sum as the board of managers may from time to time require. He shall receive and keep in trust all deeds, securities and evidences of debts due and to become due ; and collect, receive and keep in trust all moneys owing, paid, and belonging to this institution. He shall pay all orders of the society and of the board of managers, and annually, or

oftener if required, lay before the society and the board of managers a correct statement of the funds.

ARTICLE V.

The secretary shall keep fair and correct minutes of the proceedings of the society, preserve all papers and documents entrusted to his care, and do every other duty which the society may, by any rule or by-law, require him to perform.

ARTICLE VI.

The board of managers shall hold stated meetings at least once in every month, appoint a chairman and secretary, enact rules and regulations for their own government, and provide for, and have the entire government of the school or schools. They shall have power to draw on the treasurer for any moneys they may deem necessary for fulfilling the duties of their appointment, and ten members shall constitute a quorum. They shall in the name and for the use of this institution receive and decide on all applications for loans of money; and shall add to, place out at interest, secure and improve the capital stock, and dispose of the interest, profits and produce thereof, and other income of the society, in such manner as they may deem most beneficial to the institution. They shall keep fair and correct minutes of their proceedings, and lay the same before every stated meeting of the society.

ARTICLE VII.

The electing committee, seven of whom shall be a quorum, shall have the sole power of electing members; but no person can be chosen who shall not have been nominated at a previous

stated or special meeting of the society; nor until one month after such nomination shall have taken place.

ARTICLE VIII.

Every person who may be elected, and shall subscribe the constitution, and pay one dollar, shall be a member of this society. Each member shall annually pay one dollar for the use of the institution, and shall contribute thereto, as may from time to time be required; and any member who shall neglect to pay the same for two years successively, provided due notice thereof shall have been given, shall forfeit his right of membership. The society shall have power, at any stated or special meeting, to supply all vacancies in office, from any cause whatsoever.

ARTICLE IX.

No amendment to, nor alteration of this constitution shall be made, but at a stated meeting of the society, when there shall be at least twenty members present; and which shall have been proposed at a previous meeting thereof: provided that the amendments or alterations to be made in pursuance of this article, be approved by the attorney-general and supreme court of this commonwealth, transmitted by the governor to the master of the rolls, and enrolled in the same manner as this constitution is.

Done at Philadelphia, the seventh day of August, in
the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and one.

I have perused and examined the within written instrument, and hereby certify, that I am of opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions, therein set forth and contained, are lawful.

JOS. B. M'KEAN.

We, the justices of the supreme court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereby certify, that at a Supreme Court held at Philadelphia for the said Commonwealth, on the seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one, an act or instrument of incorporation of the Philadelphia Society, for the establishment and support of charity schools, by the name and title of "The Philadelphia Society, for the Establishment and Support of Charity Schools," signed by a number of persons, citizens of this commonwealth, together with the opinion of Joseph B. M'Kean, Esq., attorney-general of the said Commonwealth, thereon, was exhibited to the said Supreme Court; who having perused and examined the same, concur with him in opinion, that the objects articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained, are lawful.

EDWARD SHIPPEN,
J. YEATES,
THOMAS SMITH.

PENNSYLVANIA, ss.

{ L. S. } In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, THOMAS M'KEAN, Governor of the said Commonwealth.

THOMAS M'KEAN,

*To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Master of the Rolls in and for
the said Commonwealth.*

Whereas, it hath been duly certified to me by Joseph B. M'Kean, Esq., Attorney-General of the said Commonwealth, and by Edward Shippen, Esq. Chief Justice, and Jasper Yeates, Thomas Smith, and Hugh H. Brackenridge, Esquires, justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, that they have respectively perused and examined the act or instrument for the incorporation of "The Philadelphia Society, for the Establishment and Support of Charity Schools," within written; and that they concur in opinion that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful: Now, KNOW YE, That in pursuance of the act of the General Assembly, in such case made and provided, I have transmitted the said act or instrument of incorporation to you the said Timothy Matlack, Master of the Rolls aforesaid, hereby requiring you to enrol the same at the expense of the applicants; to the intent that according to the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained, the parties may become and be a Corporation or Body Politic in law and in fact, to have continuance by the name, style, and title in the said instrument provided and declared.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State at Lancaster, this seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one, and of the Commonwealth the twenty-sixth.

By the GOVERNOR,

T. M. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*

Enrolled in the Rolls Office, in Commission Book No. 2,
page 114, &c., this eighth day of September, 1801.

{ L. S. } The same having been presented to me for enrol-
ment on the seventh day of the same month, at ten
minutes after eight o'clock in the evening. Wit-
ness my hand and seal of office.

T. MATLACK, M. R.

AMENDMENTS.

AN ACT

*Relating to the Philadelphia Society for the Establishment
and Support of Charity Schools.*

Whereas, according to the provisions of the Act, entitled, "An act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this commonwealth, the powers and immunities of Corporations or Bodies Politic in law," "the Philadelphia Society for the Establishment and Support of Charity Schools," was duly incorporated; and whereas, by virtue of the said act, "the clear yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, lands, and tenements, rents, annuities, or other hereditaments and real estate of the said corporation, and the interest of money by them lent, cannot exceed the sum of five hundred pounds;" and whereas, said Corporation have represented that their annual income is nearly equal to this sum, and that the design of the institution will be advanced by an increase of revenue, and pray that the limitation may be enlarged to ten thousand dollars. Therefore,

SECT. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*

sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the Corporation styled "The Philadelphia Society for the Establishment and Support of Charity Schools," to hold and enjoy additional revenue, *provided*, that the clear yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, lands, and tenements, rents, annuities or other hereditaments and real estate of said Corporation, and the interest of money lent, shall not exceed ten thousand dollars.

Approved, January 27, 1818.

A Supplement to the Act, entitled, "An Act to erect Shirleysburg, in the County of Huntingdon, New Hope in the County of Bucks, and Hamburg in the County of Berks, into Boroughs, and for other purposes."

SECT. 53. That the real estate owned by the Philadelphia Society for the Establishment and Support of Charity Schools, within the City and County of Philadelphia, be, and the same is, hereby exempted from the payment of City, County, Poor, Road, and Corporation taxes.

Approved, April 16, 1838.

B Y - L A W S.

ARTICLE I.

The stated meetings of the society shall be held on the first Tuesday in October, January, April, and July, in every year.

ARTICLE II.

The election for officers, the board of managers, and the electing committee, shall take place at the stated meeting in January in every year.

ARTICLE III.

At the opening of each meeting of the Society the minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read, and, if necessary, amended.

ARTICLE IV.

When a member rises to speak, he must address the presi-

dent ; and shall not be interrupted by another while speaking, except for the special purpose of explaining any expression the member so interrupting may have used.

ARTICLE V.

If two or more members rise at the same time to speak, the president shall determine who shall proceed.

ARTICLE VI.

Any member shall have the right of appealing from the decision of the president ; but no order shall be taken on such appeal, unless five members concur in the same.

ARTICLE VII.

At the request of five members a decision by yeas and nays, or by ballot, shall be taken.

ARTICLE VIII.

A motion for postponement, commitment, or adjournment, shall supersede every other motion.

ARTICLE IX.

Reports of all committees shall be in writing.

ARTICLE X.

The Secretary shall give notice of all the meetings of the

Society in at least two of the daily newspapers ; which notice shall not be less than one day previous to such meeting.

ARTICLE XI.

As soon as the Secretary shall receive official information from the Electing Committee of the election of a candidate, he shall immediately give notice thereof to the person elected.

RESOLUTION

Passed January 1st, 1822.

Resolved, That the sum to be paid by the members of this Society be reduced to two dollars, including the annual dollar required to be paid by the constitution ; to take effect from the present time.

L I S T
OF THE
SUCCESSIVE OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION
FROM ITS ORIGIN.

PRESIDENTS.

Joseph Bennett Eves, December 18, 1799.
Joseph Briggs, October 28, 1800.
Joseph Bennett Eves, August 7, 1801.
Thomas Bradford, Jr., January 2, 1810.
Jonathan Fell, January 5, 1819.
Philip Garrett, January 5, 1830.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Hudson Stockton, October 28, 1800.
Joseph Briggs, August 7, 1801.
Thomas Bradford, Jr., September 12, 1801.
Joseph R. Kammerer, January 2, 1810.
Jonathan Fell, January 5, 1813.
Philip Garrett, January 5, 1819.
Paul Beck, Jr., January 5, 1830.

TREASURERS.

Joseph Briggs, December 18, 1799.
Joseph Parry, October 28, 1800.

Thomas Potts, Jr., December, 13, 1800.
 Benjamin Williams, June 8, 1801.
 Samuel J. Robbins, November 1, 1822.
 Richard Price, January 7, 1823.
 George Peterson, January 5, 1830.

SECRETARIES.

William Nekervis, December 18, 1799.
 Joseph R. Kammerer, January 1, 1805.
 Stephen North, January 2, 1810.
 Samuel J. Robbins, January 4, 1814.
 Charles Biddle, Jr., January 7, 1817.
 Richard Price, January 6, 1818.
 Samuel L. Shober, January 5, 1819.
 Joshua Kimber, January 2, 1821.
 Richard Wistar, Jr., January 7, 1823.
 James C. Biddle, January 6, 1824.
 Thomas A. Alexander, January 3, 1826.
 Edwin Walter, January 5, 1830.
 John Robbins, January, 5, 1836.
 James J. Barclay, January 1, 1839.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD.

CHAIRMEN.

Joseph Briggs, June 15, 1801.
 William Fry, August 10, 1801.
 Jonathan Fell, January 7, 1803.

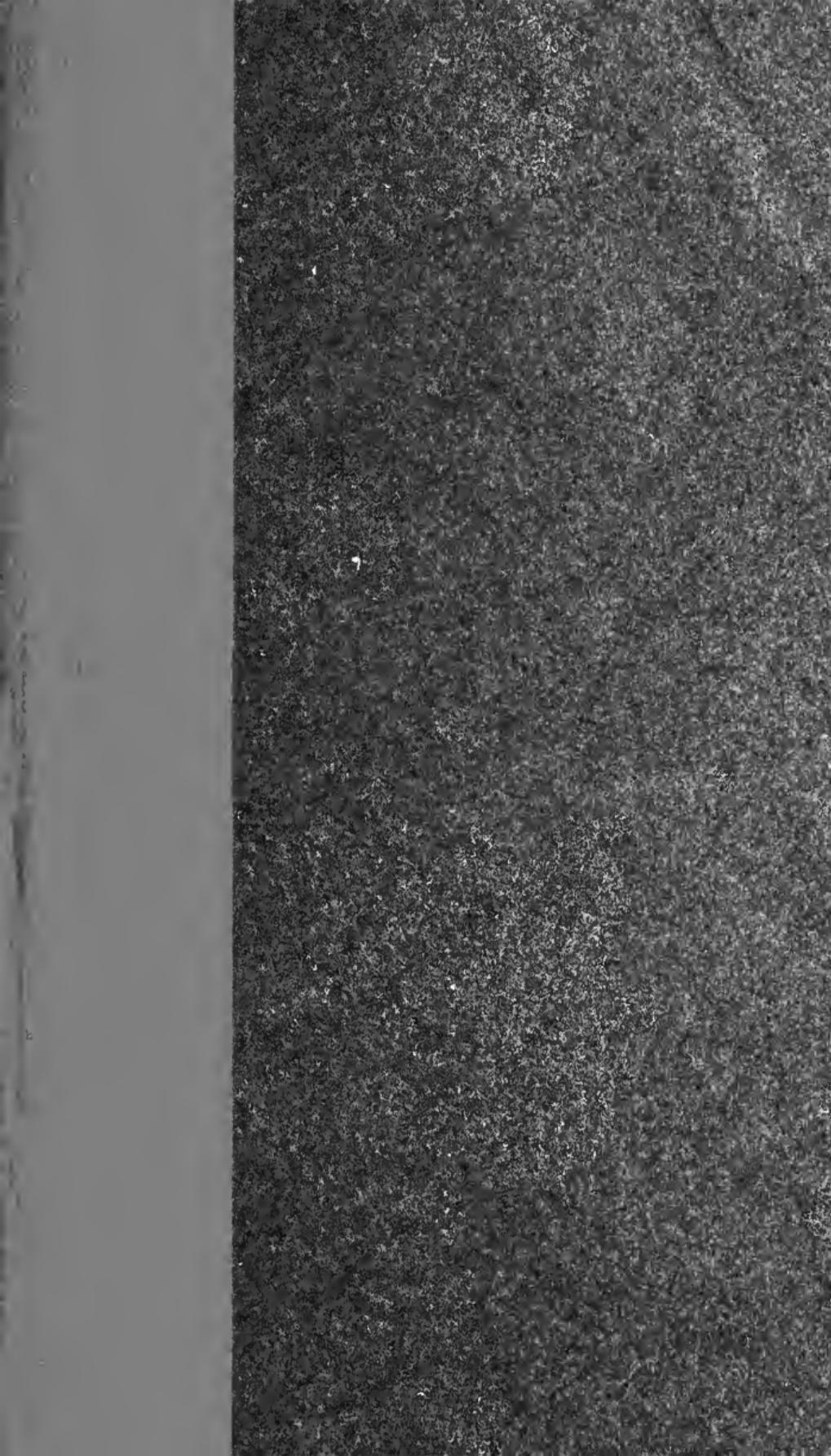
Joseph R. Kammerer, January 5, 1805.
Jonathan Fell, January 10, 1812.
Philip Garrett, January 8, 1813.
John Claxton, January 5, 1821.
William Abbott, January 6, 1826.
James Cresson, January 13, 1832.
Samuel J. Robbins, January 3, 1833.
Richard Oakford, January 10, 1834.

SECRETARIES.

William Fry, June 15, 1801.
Edmund Darch, August 10, 1801.
Joseph Williams, January 8, 1802.
Caleb Cresson, Jr. January 7, 1803.
Joseph R. Kammerer, January 4, 1804.
Fielding Lucas, Jr., January 5, 1805.
Thomas L. Bristoll, January 8, 1808.
Joseph M. Paul, January 14, 1809.
William Fry, January 12, 1810.
Joseph Williams, January 10, 1812.
John Robbins, January 8, 1813.
Blakey Sharpless, January 9, 1818.
Samuel L. Shober, January 8, 1819.
Samuel Mason, Jr. January 5, 1821.
William B. Davidson, January 8, 1825.
John B. Ellison, May 29, 1829.
Henry Cramond, January 10, 1840.



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